

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2005

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MARKEY STATEMENT ON COURT RULING FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAW TEMPORARILY BANNING SHIPMENTS OF TOXIC MATERIALS FROM PARTS OF DC

Washington, DC – Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, today released the following statement in response to today's court ruling against motions by CSX to halt the enforcement of DC Council legislation that temporarily bans shipments of extremely hazardous material from being transported through parts of Washington, DC:

"Today, the judicial branch has refused to squelch the first local measure aimed at addressing the Bush Administration's failure to secure our cities and towns from terrorist attacks on shipments of extremely hazardous materials. The DC Council bill is the first, but it will not be the last, legislation of its kind. Until the Bush Administration takes the steps needed to improve security surrounding shipments of deadly materials transported through our communities, local jurisdictions will take matters into their own hands to protect their residents from toxic releases that could be caused by accidents or terrorist attacks.

"I plan to offer an amendment to the Homeland Security Authorization bill, when it gets marked up in committee next week. My amendment will be based on legislation that I recently re-introduced that calls on the Department of Homeland Security to create a national policy for re-routing shipments of the most hazardous materials away from sensitive areas, require the use of technology that would make tanker cars carrying those materials more resistant to puncture, train and coordinate employees and emergency personnel who would have to respond to such an attack or accident, and provide whistleblower protections for personnel who work with these shipments.

"Despite recent accidents in California and South Carolina and the ongoing vulnerability of our rail system to terrorist attack, the rail and chemical industries and the Bush Administration have opposed my legislative efforts to re-route shipments to safer routes, beef up security and move to less toxic chemicals whenever possible. Whether caused by an accident or an Al Qaeda attack, leakage of hazardous chemicals transported around the country can have deadly consequences in our communities. The industry, with the support of the Bush Administration, says it can't afford to upgrade security. The reality is that we can't afford not to do so."

For more information on Representative Markey's work on homeland security check out:

<http://www.house.gov/markey/>

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